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'Frugality Is Good, Except . . .

The fiscal course of the Eisenhower administration has turned out to be quite different from what it was expected to be when General Eisenhower was elected President in 1952.

It was expected then that the Republican administration would prune carefully and sharply non-military spending. There was the anticipation that the General would be able to pare the fat from military appropriations without cutting into the lean meat. As it has turned out these past seven years, non-military spending has not been pruned, but rather has been permitted to grow luxuriantly. And the paring of the fat from military spending may have, more probably has, cut too deeply into the meat.

General Power of the Strategic Air Command is not the only authority to differ with President Eisenhower on essential defense needs. Allen Dulles, head of the Central Intelligence Agency and brother of the late Secretary of State, confirmed General Power's stand in testimony before the Senate Armed Services Committee. And a member of that committee, Senator Ervin, speaking at the North Carolina Jefferson-Jackson Day dinner as substitute for former Senator Clements of Kentucky, contrasted the testimony of "some of his advisers" before the committee and what the President says about the status of our defenses.

A part of the pattern is seen in the testimony of Admiral Burke, chief of naval operations, before the Senate Space Committee. There he committed himself to ask for more money for missile-firing atomic submarines, although he admitted that he wasn't sure the Defense Department would go along with him—and it has subsequently affirmed its opposition.

The administration takes the position that no nation will start a war against the United States. The fallacy in that position is that a nation may not have to start a war against this country to impose its will on the United States; if it has built up a decided superiority in the most devastating of weapons, it can impose its will by the very fact of that superiority.

The Dutch have a saying, "Frugality is good, except for making dams and dikes." When security is threatened, a nation cannot afford to be parsimonious, any more than a family can when the health of a loved one is involved.

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